

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 10054 01 OF 02 031639Z
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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 10054

NOAA FOR NEJOHNSON, IA; MOSCOW, NEW DELHI FOR SCIENCE
ATTACHES

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: WMO FGGE
SUBJECT: WMO INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON THE FIRST GARP
GLOBAL EXPERIMENT (FGGE): SIXTH SESSION, GENEVA, JUNE
26-30, 1978. . .---

1. SUMMARY: THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE WMO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON THE FIRST GARP GLOBAL EXPERIMENT (IPF) MET AT WMO HEADQUARTERS IN GENEVA JUNE 26-30, 1978. REPRESENTATIVES OF 16 GOVERNMENTS PARTICIPATED, INCLUDING FOR THE FIRST TIME THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. EARLIER THIS YEAR, PRC ANNOUNCED ITS INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE AND TO CONTRIBUTE TWO SHIPS, AND WAS THUS ACCORDED MEMBERSHIP ON THE IPF BY THE WMO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AT ITS THIRTIETH SESSION HELD EARLIER IN JUNE 1978. THE GLOBAL WEATHER EXPERIMENT HAS BECOME THE LARGEST INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENT EVER IMPLEMENTED. IN ADDITION TO VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE 147 WMO MEMBERS' CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE EXISTING WORLD WEATHER WATCH OBSERVING SYSTEM, 67 COUNTRIES AND FIVE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ARE MAKING

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 10054 01 OF 02 031639Z

SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL OBSERVING SYSTEMS AND DATA MANAGEMENT ELEMENTS OF THE FGGE AND THE ASSOCIATED REGIONAL EXPERIMENTS.

2. THE PANEL REVIEWED THE STATUS OF PREPARATIONS FOR THE FGGE -- THE GLOBAL WEATHER EXPERIMENT -- AND UPDATED THE DETAILED PLANS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE PROGRAMS SCHEDULED FOR

THE OPERATIONAL PERIOD THAT BEGINS IN DECEMBER 1978. WHILE A NUMBER OF SPECIFIC PROBLEMS AND DELAYS IN IMPLEMENTATION WERE IDENTIFIED, THE PANEL JUDGED THAT THE ESSENTIAL OBSERVATIONAL ELEMENTS OF THE GLOBAL EXPERIMENT STILL ARE WITHIN REACH. THE SPECIFIC ACTIONS NEEDED TO INSURE SUCCESS OF THE EXPERIMENT WERE IDENTIFIED, AND PROCEDURES WERE ESTABLISHED TO ALLOW RESPONSE TO MAJOR CONTINGENCIES THAT MAY ARISE. MUCH ATTENTION WAS DEVOTED TO THE REGIONAL EXPERIMENTS: THE (ASIAN) MONSOON EXPERIMENT (MONEX); THE WEST AFRICAN MONSOON EXPERIMENT (WAMEX); AND THE POLAR EXPERIMENT (POLEX). THERE HAS BEEN GREAT PROGRESS IN PLANNING THE REGIONAL EXPERIMENTS, BUT MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE BEFORE THESE EXPERIMENTS BEGIN (SEE PARA. 7). THE IPF ALSO REVIEWED PLANS FOR THE OCEANOGRAPHIC COMPONENT OF THE GLOBAL EXPERIMENT, ON WHICH MUCH WORK HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF SCOR AND IOC. IT IS CLEAR THAT A MAJOR AND COHERENT OCEANOGRAPHIC EFFORT CAN BE ACHIEVED WHOSE EMPHASIS WILL BE ON THE TROPICS. SPECIFIC PLANS RELATED TO RESEARCH ASPECTS OF THE EXPERIMENT AND PUBLIC INFORMATION ACTIVITIES ALSO WERE APPROVED.

3. AT THIS POINT, MIDWAY THROUGH THE BUILD-UP YEAR, PLANNING HAS REACHED A VERY DETAILED STAGE. SCHEDULES AND OPERATIONAL COORDINATION OF OBSERVING AND DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS WERE REFINED, BASED ON THE LATEST INFORMATION OF NATIONAL COMMITMENTS AND ON EXPERIENCE GAINED IN THE BUILD-
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PAGE 03 GENEVA 10054 01 OF 02 031639Z

UP YEAR. A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF DATA MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS WAS AVAILABLE FROM A RECENT EXPERTS MEETING AND STEPS TO CORRECT NUMEROUS MINOR PROBLEMS WERE INITIATED.

4. THE USSR PRESENTED A NEW PLAN FOR POSITIONS AND OPERATIONS OF ITS 13 PARTICIPATING SHIPS. THE MANY CHANGES IN USSR PLANS REQUIRE AN ADJUSTMENT OF THE TROPICAL OBSERVING NETWORK.

5. THE PANEL EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF ACHIEVING MAXIMUM PERFORMANCE FROM THE WORLD WEATHER WATCH CONVENTIONAL OBSERVING NETWORK. INTENSE EFFORTS HAVE BEEN INITIATED BY MEMBER COUNTRIES, THE WMO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THE SECRETARIAT TO IDENTIFY REMAINING PROBLEMS AND PROVIDE ESSENTIAL ASSISTANCE.

6. THE MAJOR CONCERN AT THE MEETING WAS THE DELAYS IN THE TIROS-N SCHEDULE (TO BE LAUNCHED BY USA SOMETIME DURING THE LAST HALF OF 1978) AND THEIR POTENTIAL IMPACT ON THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE DRIFTING BUOY PROGRAM. MAJOR REVISIONS TO THE BUOY SYSTEM TESTING PROGRAM WERE THEREFORE REQUIRED. FURTHER DELAYS IN THE TIROS-N LAUNCH WILL THREATEN THE

VIABILITY OF THIS PROGRAM. THE IPF HOPED THAT THE USA WOULD ONCE MORE COME THROUGH SUCCESSFULLY IN THE ELEVENTH HOUR, BUT PRUDENTLY ADOPTED CONTINGENCY ARRANGEMENTS TO RESPOND IN CASE OF CATASTROPHE IN THIS PROGRAM.

7. PLANS FOR THE WINTER MONEX APPEAR TO BE PROGRESSING WELL. ADDITIONAL NATIONAL COMMITMENTS ARE PLANNED BY THE USSR, MALAYSIA, USA, SAUDI ARABIA, AUSTRALIA AND PROBABLY THE PRC. MALAYSIA PROBABLY WILL ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE II-B DATA CENTER. PLANS AND SECONDMENT OF PERSONNEL

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 10054 02 OF 02 031640Z
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 GENEVA 10054

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FOR THE SUMMER MONEX ARE NOT AS FAR ADVANCED AS FOR THE WINTER PROGRAM. PROBLEMS ARE BEING WORKED OUT. INDIA IS PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE USA TO FACILITATE THE USE OF USA RESEARCH AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS FROM INDIA. FURTHER, THE JOC HAS BEEN ASKED TO REFINE THE PRIORITIES FOR BOTH THE WINTER AND THE SUMMER MONEX ON THE BASIS OF THE CURRENT LEVEL OF COMMITMENTS. WAMEX PLANNING HAS NOT PROGRESSED MUCH SINCE IPF-V, HELD ONE YEAR AGO. THE EXPERIMENT IS POORLY SUPPORTED AT PRESENT, AND UNLESS MUCH GREATER EFFORT IS EXPENDED BY WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND BY FRANCE OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, ITS RESULTS WILL BE IN JEOPARDY. THE POLAR EXPERIMENT (POLEX) HAS BECOME ESSENTIALLY A FRAMEWORK FOR ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS DURING THE GLOBAL EXPERIMENT, RATHER THAN A COHERENT INTERNATIONALLY MANAGED SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENT. THESE ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS WILL, NEVERTHELESS, BENEFIT THE MAIN EXPERIMENT AND COULD HAVE LONGER TERM VALUE FOR SUBSEQUENT POLAR

STUDIES.

8. A STRATEGY FOR INTERNATIONALLY FOSTERING, COORDINATING,
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 10054 02 OF 02 031640Z

AND MONITORING THE RESEARCH ASPECTS OF THE GLOBAL AND REGIONAL EXPERIMENTS IS BEING PREPARED IN RESPONSE TO JOC INITIATIVES. ONE OF THE STEPS BEING TAKEN IN THESE PREPARATIONS IS A SUMMARY OF NATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS AND PLANS. SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS ARE SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS FGGE RESULTS AND RESEARCH. THE IPF ENDORSED A JOC RECOMMENDATION FOR A VISITING SCIENTISTS PROGRAM.

9. THE IPF NOTED THAT AN INTERNATIONAL FILM ON FGGE AND THE REGIONAL EXPERIMENTS WILL BE PRODUCED. NATIONS WERE ENCOURAGED TO PUBLICIZE THEIR EFFORTS IN THE EXPERIMENTS AND WERE ASKED TO SEND TO WMO SECRETARIAT COPIES OF MATERIALS PREPARED IN THIS CONNECTION.

10. THE PANEL SCHEDULED A CONTINGENT EXTRAORDINARY SESSION FOR OCTOBER 30-31, 1978, IN CASE OF SERIOUS PROBLEMS (SEE PARA. 6). A SECOND CONTINGENT MEETING WAS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 19-23, 1979, IF NEEDED, TO MAKE CHANGES BETWEEN THE TWO SPECIAL OBSERVING PERIODS (JAN. 5-MARCH 5, 1979, AND MAY 1-JUNE 30, 1979). THE NEXT ORDINARY SESSION OF THE PANEL WAS SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 12-16, 1979. VANDEN HEUVEL

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